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NSC BRIEFING

30 November 1959

CYPRUS

- I. Since the preparation of NSC paper under consideration (2 November), have been three noteworthy developments, one favorable, two unfavorable.
  - A. Commission drafting constitution again working smoothly; three-month dead-lock on vice-presidential powers broken on 10 November and it looks as though independence will be achieved on schedule (19 February 1960).
  - B. Makarios' efforts to retain unity of Greek Cypriots through first elections have failed.
    1. Dissident nationalists have formed Democratic Union and nominated John Clerides to oppose Makarios for President.
    2. Proscribed--but soon to be legalized--communist AKEL, which claims 7,000 members, now supporting Clerides.
    3. Makarios, however, still expected win presidential election.
  - C. British and Greek Cypriots have reached impasse in negotiations over extent of military bases to be retained by Britain after independence.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
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BACKGROUND

CYPRUS

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- I. Area: 3,572 square miles  
Population: 563,000 (80% Greek Cypriot; 18% Turkish Cypriot)
- II. Provisions of Cyprus Accord of 19 February 1959 between UK, Greece, and Turkey:
  - A. Basic Structure of future republic provisions of which are to be included in constitution. (Constitutional Commission, composed of Greeks, Turks, and Greek and Turkish Cypriots, is working in Nicosia.)
    1. Republic President to be a Greek Cypriot, the Vice President to be a Turkish Cypriot, each with important veto powers.
    2. Cabinet to be composed of 7 Greek and 3 Turkish Cypriots.
    3. Unicameral legislature (70% Greek and 30% Turkish), plus two communal chambers with jurisdiction over purely communal matters.
  - B. Treaty of Guaranty between UK, Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. (This is to be drafted by a joint committee in London.)
    1. To guarantee independence and to prohibit partition or union with another state.
    2. To provide for consultation and concerted or unilateral action to prevent infringement of provisions.

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C. Treaty of Alliance between Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus providing for joint defense of Cyprus. (This treaty was initialled in Athens on 27 October.)

D. Declaration by UK setting forth conditions for transferring sovereignty and reserving for Britain two military enclaves on Cyprus. (Work on implementation is being done by joint committee in London.)

III. Chronology of Important Events Since Settlement Negotiated:

19 Feb 59 - Cyprus accord signed.

1 Mar 59 - Makarios returns to Cyprus.

17 Mar 59 - EOKA leader Grivas flies to Greece.

29 Jul 59 - Grivas "dissociates" himself from Cyprus settlement.

7 Aug 59 - Deadlock over Vice President's powers begins in constitutional commission.

7-9 Oct 59 - Makarios and Grivas meet on Rhodes.

18 Oct 59 - Turkish boat loaded with ammunition captured near Cyprus.

27 Oct 59 - Tri-partite Treaty of Alliance initialled in Athens.

10 Nov 59 - Constitutional commission breaks deadlock on vice-presidential powers.

26 Nov 59 - Democratic Union nominates John Clerides for President.

27 Nov 59 - AKEL (Communist) announces support for Clerides.

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